



SHERBORNE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Library

Annual Report of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the year
1964

Medical Officer of Health : NOEL F. PEARSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector : F. E. RAEBURN, M.A.P.H.I.

Council Offices,
STURMINSTER NEWTON,
Dorset.

1st June, 1965.

To The Chairman and Members,
Sherborne Urban District Council.

Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1964.

The report is prepared and will be circulated in accordance with the requirements of the Public Health Officers Regulations, 1959.

Allowing for the smallness of numbers under consideration, in general, the vital statistics compare favourably with those for the Country as a whole.

There was no serious increased incidence of notifiable disease.

I am indebted to Mr. Raeburn your Public Health Inspector for his co-operation and help during the year, and for assistance in preparing this report. I am also indebted to my clerk, Miss J. Shirley for her efficient services.

I would also like to thank you, Madam and Gentlemen, for your courtesy and consideration throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your Obedient Servant,

Boa S. Lee

Medical Officer of Health.

SHERBORNE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR

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A. Area - 1,650 acres
Rateable value: 1st April 1965 - £252,872
Production of a penny rate: 1964/65 - £955 (est)
1965/66 - £970

Vital Statistics

Population (Registrar General's Estimate) - 7,440

LIVE BIRTHS

		<u>Comparative Rates</u>	
		(a) Sherborne U.D.	(b) England & Wales
	<u>Male</u> <u>Female</u>		
Total	39 43	15.7	18.4
Illegitimate	3 5		
) = 11.0			
		Rate per 1,000 resident pop:	

STILLBIRTHS

Total	2 Nil	23.9	16.3
Legitimate	2 Nil		
Rate per 1,000 live & still-births = 23.9			

DEATHS

Total	39	41	}Rate per 1,000 resident pop: = 10.8	8.7	11.3

Deaths in Infants

Under 1 year	1	1	Infantile death rate per 1,000 live births = 24.4	24.4	20.0
Under 1 week	1				

		<u>1964</u>	<u>1963</u>	<u>1962</u>	<u>1961</u>
Deaths from	Maternal Causes	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
"	" Tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
"	" Cancer of the lungs	2	3	4	3
"	" Other Cancer	14	9	15	12
"	" Coronary Disease (Angina)	11	13	13	19
"	" Other Heart or Vascular diseases	22	31	34	37
"	" Influenza	Nil	1	Nil	1
"	" Pneumonia	3	8	6	6
"	" Motor vehicle accidents	2	1	3	1
"	" All other accidents	2	1	1	1
"	" Suicide	1	Nil	2	3
"	" Leukaemia & Aleukemia	1	2	Nil	Nil

B. Nature of the District

Sherborne is a trading centre of an agricultural area, as well as being a tourist and educational centre. Principal industries include light engineering, manufacture of industrial glass fabrics, glove making dairies and mineral water manufacturing.

During the year there was appreciable industrial expansion, with the enlargement of 'Marglass' and the establishment of Kodak.

C. Health Services in the District which are not the responsibility of the District Council

The Hospital Service

The Yeatman Hospital (West Dorset Hospital Group of the Wessex Regional Hospital Board) provides the local hospital requirements, both in-patient and out-patient.

Laboratory Services

The Public Health Laboratory Service has again proved co-operative and efficient.

General Medical Practitioner, Ophthalmic and Pharmaceutical Services

These are administered locally by the Dorset Executive Committee.

County Council Services

The personal preventive health services are the responsibility of the County Council.

They comprise, the care of mothers and young children, maternity, school health, prophylactic inoculation, home nursing, mental health, the ambulance service, the care and after care of the tuberculous, blind and handicapped, health education, the domestic help service and the welfare of the aged.

Voluntary Services

Acknowledgment must be made to the excellent voluntary work carried out in the district by the British Red Cross Society, the Guild of Social Service and the meals on wheels service provided by the W.V.S.

At the end of the year twenty six elderly people were benefitting from this valuable service. Not only are the meals appreciated, but even more (one sometimes thinks) are the twice weekly visits by the helpers who take the meals around.

D. Environmental Health Services

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health(part time) - Noel F. Pearson,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P, D.P.H.

He also acts as Medical Officer of Health
to four other District Councils in the North
Dorset area and as Assistant County Medical
Officer to the Dorset County Council.

The time available which he has to devote to
his duties with your Council is slightly more
than one half day per week.

Dr. G.B. Hopkins of the Blandford and Wimborne
Districts acts as his deputy during his absence,
on a reciprocal basis.

Senior Public Health Inspector - F.E. Raeburn, M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector - E. Wood, M.A.P.H.I.
(from 1.9.64).

The appointment of an additional inspector has
enabled more detailed and methodical routine
inspection of the district to be made and for
office records to be compiled or brought up to
date.

In addition, it has enabled a start being made
on the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act,
inspections.

Clerical Staff - Two clerks (part time)

WATER SUPPLY

<u>Rainfall</u>	-	<u>1964</u>	<u>1963</u>	<u>1962</u>
		23.55 ins.	28.58 ins.	29.01 ins.

The Wessex Water Board is responsible for the public
water supplies in the district.

All the houses in the town have a piped mains water
supply and no house is dependent upon a standpipe supply.

The supplies remained adequate and satisfactory through-
out the year.

In addition to the samples for bacteriological examin-
ation taken by the Board, ninety one samples were submitted
for examination by your public health staff.

Twenty-five samples were taken from the two private water supplies in the town used for industrial purposes.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

A new recirculating pump for the sewage works was authorised by the Council to improve present standards of effluent and to meet improved standards which may be demanded by the Somerset River Board.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

There are four sets of public conveniences in the district. All are supplied with wash hand basins with a cold water supply. Paper towels and soap are available from a slot machine.

One convenience, for females, in each set is free of charge.

It is regretful that some members of the public do not treat these facilities with the respect or care due.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

House Refuse The Council's scheme provides for the collection of house refuse weekly and disposal by controlled tipping.

Salvage Seventy three tons of paper, almost two tons of rags and six tons of metal were collected during the year.

Towards the end of the year the Council decided to discontinue salvage collection as being uneconomic and interfering with the operation of the new refuse vehicle.

Cesspool Emptying No provision is required to be made in the district.

OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

This important public health measure came into operation during the year.

Surprisingly, unlike other Acts designed to improve the environmental condition of persons or employees, e.g. the Public Health Acts or the Factory Acts, public health inspectors, as such, were not referred to in the Act, nor was any specific duty placed on the medical officers of health.

Nevertheless, under a medical officers general statutory duty to comment in this report on 'any other matters on which he may consider it desirable to report'. I feel that it is not inappropriate to comment on the working of this Act in your district.

The Council appointed two inspectors under the Act, both being your public health inspectors, one of whom was appointed, principally with the obligations of this Act in mind. By the end of the year seventy six visits were made by them in relation to the Act, which included seventeen detailed (general) inspections.

SHOPS ACTS

In view of the Offices Shops and Railway Premises Act coming into force during the year no inspections under Sections 37 - 39 of the Shops Act, were made.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 (Nil figures not given)

	<u>No. of Premises on Register</u>	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Written Notices</u>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	3	2	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	60	67	12
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	2	3	-
Total -	65	72	12
<hr/>			
No. of cases in which defects were -			
	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>	<u>Referred by Factory Inspector</u>
<u>Sanitary Conveniences</u>			
Insufficient	1	-	-
Unsuitable or Defective	26	22	-
Total -	27	22	-
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No. of outworkers (Wearing Apparel)	-	84	

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

Fifty-two visits or observations were made during the year.

One cause of persistent fume nuisance was traced to a faulty flue and cured. Several outbreaks of black smoke were traced to choked oil burners, and stopped.

RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCES ACT

One factory in the district is registered under the Act.

SWIMMING BATHS

There is one private swimming bath to which the public have access. Regular samples of the water from this and other private swimming baths in the district were taken during the year and all proved satisfactory.

THE CONTROL OF MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

There are two licensed caravan sites in the district, one of which, has not yet been developed.

The remaining one is at Lower Clatcombe for sixty one caravans. The large majority are for residential purposes and a limited number of spaces being reserved for caravans in transit.

By the end of the year work on the site had not been fully completed.

Forty inspections of the site were carried out during the year.

VERMINOUS PREMISES

One complaint of flea infestation in a private house was received but on inspection no infestation was found.

Advice was given in respect of several cockroach infestations.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The duties of the District Council under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 are carried out in

the district by the North Dorset Joint Rodent Committee whose activities cover the five districts in North Dorset and the Beaminster Rural District.

Four hundred and seventy six inspections were carried out. In forty cases treatment was not required.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

There are no premises subject to registration under the above-mentioned Act, within the district.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

No. of licensed premises	<u>1</u>
No. of inspections made	<u>4</u>

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1963

There are no premises registered under this Act in the district.

Under the Act, with certain limited exceptions, any person who carries on a business of providing accommodation for other people's animals, even in a private house, must be registered under this Act, by the District Council.

SANITATION OF SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL CANTEENS

All school canteens and boarding school houses were reinspected during the year. The general standard of food hygiene was good and although several minor infringements were found and remedied, only in two cases were large scale repairs or alterations required.

In one school, as the result of inspection, it was decided to rebuild the main sanitary block.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951 - Section 47

No action was called for or taken during the year toward the compulsory removal of a person requiring care and attention.

Persons of this category are not unknown. One, is, however, most reluctant to initiate action under this Act unless the welfare of other persons is seriously interfered with. It is rarely in the true interests of the person themselves, when compulsory removal is so often followed by early demise, which cannot be dissociated from the compulsory removal.

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT

Action was called for with regard to noise from a large factory which caused nuisance, particularly at night and in the summer time when the ventilating roof windows were required to be open.

The Factory Management co-operated well in attempting to find a remedy but up to the end of the year no solution had been found.

HOUSING

No. of houses in the district _____ 2,214

Inspection of dwelling houses during the year -

No. of dwelling houses inspected during the year	33
No. of inspections made	43
No. of informal notices served	5
No. of informal notices complied with	5
No. of statutory notices served	3
No. of statutory notices complied with	2

No. of houses reported under Section 16
of the Housing Act, 1958 _____ Nil

Action taken by the Local Authority in
respect of such houses -

Demolition Orders made _____ Nil
Undertakings accepted for -

Closure	Nil
Reconditioning	Nil
Other Action	Nil

No. of houses included in Clearance Areas
during the year _____ Nil

Slum Clearance

Little activity was taken during the year in initiating action in respect of unfit dwellings. There are still houses in the district which are unfit for habitation and which cannot be made fit at reasonable cost. There are very many more which though 'fit' within the low standard laid down by the Housing Acts, have not the reasonable amenities which can nowadays be expected.

In a so called welfare state it is surprising that a house is considered 'fit for humans' even though its water supply is limited to a single tap of cold water over a 'sink'.

With the appointment of an additional public health inspector it is hoped that more attention can be given to 'unfit' dwellings in the district and the 'improvement' of those subject to the Housing Act, 1964.

Overcrowding

No 'statutory' overcrowding came to notice during the year.

Houses Let in Lodgings

Three houses are known to be let in lodgings.

Improvement Grants

No applications for 'Discretionary' but sixteen applications for 'standard' improvement grants were received during the year, compared with four and eleven respectively during the preceding year.

New Houses

Thirty three new houses were built by private enterprise during the year and thirty one by the Council, compared with seven and none, respectively, during the previous year.

Forty nine families were housed by the Council during the year, compared with twenty one during the preceding year.

Waiting List

One hundred and seventy nine applicants were on the Council's housing waiting list at the end of the year compared with one hundred and fifty nine a year previously.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

1. Milk

Milk & Dairies(General)Regulations, 1959

No. of 'Dealers' subject to registration by the District Council_____8

No. of 'Dairies' in the district subject to registration_____2

No. of 'distributors' subject to registration_____Nil

Samples

Forty seven samples of milk in the district were taken during the year by your Public Health Inspector and submitted for examination. All samples passed the test.

In addition one hundred and sixty six samples were taken by Officers of the County Council.

Brucellosis

No cases of Brucella Abortus came to notice during the year and no samples of milk were submitted for examination in this connection.

Milk & Dairies(General) Regulations, 1959 -
Regulation 20.

No action was called for or taken during the year.

2. Other Food Premises

It will be noted from the figures given below that the number of inspections under the Food Hygiene Regulations was doubled during the year as a result of the appointment of the additional public health inspector.

At this point, I would like to pay tribute to the speed and efficiency with which the Senior Public Health Inspector traced and withdrew from sale and use, thirty two suspected tins of corned beef, at the time of the Aberdeen outbreak of typhoid fever. All enquiries and action was completed within twenty-four hours.

The number of food premises in the area, by type of business:-

Hotels, restaurants, cafes and boarding houses	27
Canteens - School and Workplace	9
Confectioners	8
Meat and Fish	9
Grocers	10
Mixed Stores	10
Boarding Schools and other residential institutions	9
Food Factories	1
Stalls	4
Other	7

No. of food premises subject to registration under
Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 in respect
of -

Ice Cream	34
Sausages & Prepared Meats	2
Fish and Chips	2

No. of samples of ice cream submitted for
Methylene Blue Test 105

Ninety four of the above-mentioned 'food premises' were inspected during the year, three hundred and seventy one inspections being carried out, compared with one hundred and seventy during the previous year.

Twenty six informal notices were served during the year in relation to contravention of the Food (Hygiene) Regulations in addition to verbal notices given for minor infringements.

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned 1964

	Cattle Including Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	703	3571	1065	1258
Number inspected	703	3751	1065	1258
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>				
Whole carcasses condemned	-	23	4	37
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	52	40	129	403
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	7.39	1.76	12.49	34.98
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>				
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	21
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	1.75
<u>Cysticercosis</u>				
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	3	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	3	-	-	-
Generalized and totally condemned	-	-	-	-

Food Inspection

Butchers' and Other Shops

Quantities of Foodstuffs condemned -

Meat	-	225 lbs.
Other	-	84 lbs.

together with seventy one packets of assorted frozen foodstuffs after a deep freeze cabinet had failed at one shop.

LIQUID EGG(PASTEURISATION)REGULATIONS, 1963

One bakehouse in the Urban district commenced using this product, one sample taken was satisfactory.

Regular samples from each batch are taken at source by the Authority concerned.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT

Total No. of inspections(under all headings)	1,914
Total No. of informal notices served	56
Total No. of informal notices complied with	39
Total No. of statutory notices served	6
Total No. of statutory notices complied with	5
Total No. of prosecutions	1

E. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE

Other than tuberculosis -

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total Cases</u> <u>Notified</u>
Measles	24
Puerperal Pyrexia	3
Whooping Cough	1
Pneumonia	1

Tuberculosis -

<u>New Cases Notified</u>	
<u>Respiratory</u>	<u>Non-Respiratory</u>

1

-

Food Poisoning -

There were no cases of food poisoning notified during the year.

NOEL F. PEARSON
Medical Officer of Health.

